

ORIGINAL

ANN BAVENDER*
ANNE GOODWIN CRUMP*
VINCENT J. CURTIS, JR.
RICHARD J. ESTEVEZ
PAUL J. FELDMAN*
ERIC FISHMAN*
RICHARD HILDRETH
FRANK R. JAZZO
ANDREW S. KERSTING*
KATHRYN A. KLEIMAN
EUGENE M. LAWSON, JR.
HARRY C. MARTIN
GEORGE PETRUTSAS
LEONARD R. RAISH
JAMES P. RILEY
KATHLEEN VICTORY*
HOWARD M. WEISS
* NOT ADMITTED IN VIRGINIA

FLETCHER, HEALD & HILDRETH, P.L.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

11th FLOOR, 1300 NORTH 17th STREET

ROSSLYN, VIRGINIA 22209-3801

(703) 812-0400

TELECOPIER

(703) 812-0486

INTERNET

office@fhh-telcomlaw.com

FRANK U. FLETCHER
(1939-1985)
ROBERT L. HEALD
(1956-1983)
PAUL D.P. SPEARMAN
(1936-1962)
FRANK ROBERSON
(1936-1961)
RUSSELL ROWELL
(1948-1977)

RETIRED
EDWARD F. KENEHAN

CONSULTANT FOR INTERNATIONAL AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
SHELDON J. KRYS
U. S. AMBASSADOR (ret.)

OF COUNSEL
EDWARD A. CAINE*

WRITER'S NUMBER
(703) 812-

0420

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JAN 31 1997

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 31, 1997

BY HAND DELIVERY

Mr. William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

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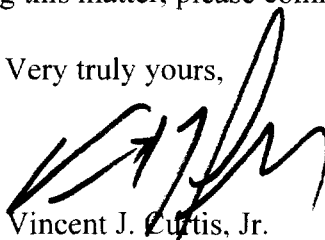
Re: Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact upon the
Existing Television Broadcast Service (MM Docket 87-268)

Dear Mr. Caton:

Transmitted herewith, on behalf of Communications Corporation of America, are an original and four copies of its "Reply Comments" in connection with the above-captioned proceeding.

Should any questions arise concerning this matter, please communicate with this office.

Very truly yours,



Vincent J. Curtis, Jr.

Counsel for Communications Corporation of America

VJC:mah
Enclosure

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

In the Matter of)
)
Advanced Television Systems and Their)
Impact upon the Existing Television)
Broadcast Service)

MM Docket No. 87-268

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JAN 31 1997

FEDERAL

To: The Commission

REPLY COMMENTS OF
COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION OF AMERICA

Comes now Communications Corporation of America ("CCA"),¹ by its attorneys, and hereby submits its Reply Comments to the Commission's Sixth Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in this proceeding, 11 FCC Rcd 10968 (1996).² In support, the following is stated:

1. The Sinclair/Broadcast Caucus agreement, which is set forth in the Reply Comments filed separately by each party, provides the opportunity for UHF stations to operate in the DTV environment with a power level consistent with relative competitive positions *vis a vis* existing VHF stations. Under the original proposals of both the Broadcast Caucus, which submitted its Comments

¹CCA, through wholly owned subsidiaries, controls KPEJ-TV, Odessa, KVEO-TV, Brownsville, KWKT-TV, Waco, and KYLE-TV, Bryan, all Texas; and KMSS-TV, Shreveport and WGMB-TV, Baton Rouge, both Louisiana.

²Although the Commission has established January 24, 1997 as the extended reply date, as reported in the trade press (See Communications Daily, Tuesday, January 28, 1997, "Broadcasters Reach Agreement on Most DTV Power Issues"), a major agreement was reached by Sinclair Broadcasting and other UHF licensees with the Broadcast Caucus, backed by MSTV, which would dramatically alter the power levels of the DTV channels for existing UHF stations, if adopted by the Commission. Because of the substantial effect that this agreement would have on all UHF stations, which proposal was not previously available for comment, it is submitted that good cause exists for accepting these Comments at this time.

in response to the Sixth Further Notice, as well as the Commission's table released for Comment, the emphasis was solely upon a replication of coverage. While commendable, that theory ignored the competition aspect requiring sufficient power to participate as a real player in the market.

2. CCA supports the terms of the agreement reached by Sinclair and the Broadcast Caucus and urges the Commission to adopt their plan for transition purposes. The plan provides for a reasonable approach based upon empirical studies for determining power levels that protect existing UHF stations in the DTV era. Without such protection, existing UHF stations are condemned to be second-rate citizens in the DTV world and destined for failure.³

WHEREFORE, the Premises considered, it is respectfully requested that the Commission accept these Reply Comments and adopt the positions set forth herein.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION OF AMERICA

By: 

Vincent J. Curtis, Jr.

Its Attorney

FLETCHER, HEALD & HILDRETH, P.L.C.

1300 N. 17th Street, 11th Floor

Rosslyn, VA 22209

(703) 812-0400

January 31, 1997

³CCA does not agree with the Broadcast Caucus's position on delaying decisions on these problem changes in the FCC/Broadcast Caucus proposals submitted by specific licensees. Not to treat these concerns -- which have been documented as substantial problems -- would be basically unfair and contrary to the public interest duty of the Commission.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Mary A. Haller, a secretary in the firm of Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth, P.L.C., do hereby certify that true copies of the foregoing "Reply Comments of Communications Corporation of America" were sent this 31st day of January, 1997, by first-class United States mail, postage prepaid, to the following:

Martin R. Leader, Esquire
Fisher, Wayland, Cooper, Leader
& Zaragoza, L.L.P.
2001 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006

Jonathan D. Blake, Esquire
Covington & Burling
1201 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
P.O. Box 7566
Washington, DC 20044

Victor Tawil
Sr. Vice President
Association for Maximum Service
Television, Inc.
1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Suite 310
Washington, DC 20036

Marilyn Mohrman-Gillis
Vice President, Policy & Legal Affairs
Association of America's Public
Television Stations
1350 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

Sam Antar
Vice President, Law & Regulation
ABC, Inc.
77 W. 66th Street
New York, NY 10023

John C. Siegal
Senior Vice President
Chris-Craft Industries, Inc.
650 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

James J. Popham, Esquire
Vice President & General Counsel
Association of Local Television Stations, Inc.
1320 19th Street, N.W.
Suite 300
Washington, DC

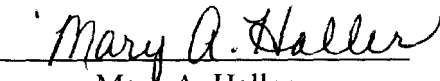
Mark W. Johnson, Esquire
Associate General Counsel
CBS, Inc.
600 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20037

Henry L. Baumann, Esquire
Executive Vice President & General Counsel
National Association of Broadcasters
1771 N Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-2891

Michael J. Sherlock
Executive Vice President, Technology
National Broadcasting Company, Inc.
30 Rockefeller Plaza
Suite 1022
New York, NY 10112

Dennis FitzSimons
Executive Vice President
Tribune Broadcasting Company
435 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611

Paula A. Jameson, Esquire
Senior Vice President
General Counsel & Secretary
Public Broadcasting Service
1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA 22314


Mary A. Haller